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DRAFTS THE FEE BILL

Our Representative, Hon. E. C. Norvell,
Wins Praise for Good Work
on the Fee Bill.

There has been much discussion over what is known as the Fee Bill during the present legislature. One bill has been prepared by a committee appointed for the purpose and been recommended for passage, but it has been far from satisfactory.

However, the representative from this florial district, Hon. E. C. Norvell, republican, living at Tracy City, Grundy county, has prepared a bill that meets so completely with the hearty approval of those legislators who have seen it that some predict the bill prepared by the committee will surely be defeated. One member went so far as to say the former bill will not receive five votes.

The bill as prepared by Hon. E. C. Norvell applies only to counties of 25,000 or more population and fixes a salary of \$2,500 and an additional compensation of one-third of the fees of the office. From the fee portion the officer must pay his assistants and deputies. That is regarded as a most happy feature of the bill as it paves the way for avoiding much trouble and excessive expense to the counties. The bill applies to the county, circuit and chancery court clerks, trustees and registers of counties affected.

The bill leaves matters as they now are with the smaller counties. Under the proposed bill the revenues from the offices named in the small counties would have been so light as to in many instances bring about the election of incompetent men because no capable man could have devoted his time to the office for the small compensation.

It now seems the Norvell bill will become a law and come much nearer rendering justice to those holding office in the large counties, while dealing justly with the state, than any law yet presented on that vexing subject.

On the confidence of his honesty and capability this county cast a large vote for Mr. Norvell and it is a matter of much satisfaction to the republicans of the county generally that they were not deceived in the ability and capability of our representative. The Chronicle recommended him highly to the voters as we felt sure, from meeting him and what we could learn of his business ability and general integrity and kindness, that he would render excellent service to his district and the state. We are much gratified to know that we were neither mistaken in our estimate of the man nor misled in our information.

CITY CHARTER.

In this connection it is proper to remark that Representative Norvell has recently written letters to several persons here urging our people to prepare such legislation as we wish touching matter in this county and he will do his utmost to see that it becomes law.

One thing that is needed very badly is a revision of the charter of Crossville, so that the city will be empowered to levy any and all necessary taxes for street improvements, and at the same time so change the corporation lines that no trouble can arise over the collection of taxes because the corporation lines do not run contiguous with the land lines of all persons residing within the corporation. If this matter is not given prompt and careful attention some persons are sure to be subject to just and severe criticism for neglect of a glaring duty and a pressing need. Unless action is taken soon the chances for passage of the measure will be limited as in the last days of the legislature there is always such a flood of bills that many fail of passage.

SOLDIERS FROM CANADA.

Canada has furnished almost 500,000 troops for the allied cause. That is one-sixteenth of the entire population of the Dominion.

ABOUT GROWING POTATOES.

Some of the Important Things to Consider, This Year Especially.

This year of high priced potatoes the planting of our normal crop may be a considerable expense. The outlay for fertilizer and labor of planting potatoes is always a large item.

Now, this year of high priced seed, which makes this item \$20 to \$35 per acre, there is great danger of planting too little seed. In fact, there is always the danger of too little seed.

HOW MANY PER ACRE.

The writer observes that 8 to 10 bushels are generally planted, which is usually little enough, but there will be a temptation to plant much less now. Farmers' Bulletin No. 35, page 10, says: "Results which follow in these pages suggest that it is generally advisable to plant at least 15 to 30 bushels per acre." Tables in some bulletins show that planting two eyes over one eye increased total yield 26 bushels per acre and saleable yield 23 bushels per acre; that quartered potatoes increased over one eye, 41 bushels per acre; halves over one eye 65 bushels per acre.

The writer has tested large seed cut to one eye, compared to medium sized seed cut to one eye. The yield was 45 bushels per acre for medium sized and 90 bushels per acre for the large seed. So, those who cut to one eye, should use large potatoes. Small potatoes should not be cut to one eye.

SIZE OF SEED PIECES.

Since it is impossible to increase quantity of seed in this section now, the writer suggests that the size of seed pieces be not reduced, but planted one in a hill instead of two pieces in hill and put the hills further apart, say 2 to 5 inches further in the row.

In this way some seed may be saved. Then, if proper care is given to fertilization and cultivation the yield will not be reduced.

PLANT IN GOOD LAND.

We should not plant potatoes this year on any but our best land, for it is a waste to put \$30 worth of seed on poor land.

Then don't let the plants suffer for plant food that can be added cheaply.

Of the two foods that can be bought, phosphorus is generally needed and is relatively cheap, so apply 200 to 500 pounds of acid phosphate per acre. Nitrogen is generally needed, but is expensive, so should be bought with care and applied only where there is phosphorus and on a well cultivated soil.

POTASH AND NITROGEN.

Potash is too expensive to buy and experiments show that we can grow big crops without it. But not so with nitrogen; \$6 or \$8 worth have, on one experiment, increased the yield nearly 100 bushels per acre.

Use either the high grade mixture, like a 10-4 or 10-5, applied in the row, or mix acid phosphate and cottonseed meal and apply in rows (well mixed with soil) or nitrate of soda, 100 pounds per acre, as a top dresser as soon as plants are up.

SMALL POTATOES.

Shall we plant little potatoes? A small potato from a hill that made several good sized ones and only one or two small ones, is as good as the big ones from the same hill. But the small one from a hill where all were small is not good to plant.

If we plant small ones year after year we will get more and more from the undesirable hill—all small—and our potatoes will "run out."

This year of high prices we should and will plant the small potatoes picked from our salable potatoes last year but we should not do this year after year.

POTATO CULTIVATION.

This year the high price of seed potatoes makes it especially desirable that all other factors be as good as we can make them.

Under these conditions we should cultivate thoroughly, beginning with good preparation of the soil before planting.

DISC BEFORE PLOWING.

On land that has a sod of any kind

the disc should be put over it before plowing so that the soil may be fine as deep as plowed, and if the sod is at all stiff it should be well cut up before plowing.

Plowing should be as deep as the land has been plowed before or a little deeper running the plow close—not cutting too much land.

The land should generally be edged, not turned entirely over and if plowed early it might be left as plowed to take in some of the spring rains. But if plowed later, the preparation should begin at once.

Preparation—if well plowed—should consist of alternate harrowing with drag or spring tooth and the disc it on new or rough land. Where the plowing is poor or shallow, cross plow and disc.

Get a fine, moderately firm seed bed—have it fine as deep as possible.

Open the furrows with a narrow plow, running it as deep as possible to loosen up under the row. There will be no other chance to cultivate under the row. The fertilizer can be spread in the row and the same plow run through again to mix it and loosen the soil deeper.

CULTIVATE SOON AND OFTEN.

After covering the seed cultivate the space between the rows at once. Some growers try to cultivate three times before the potatoes are up; use a double shovel run deep.

Later, before the potatoes are up, harrow over the whole, giving one or two other deep cultivations just after they are up; later cultivate shallower.

TO RIDGE OR NOT TO RIDGE?

Many potato sections ridge high. The writer favors a slight ridge. But if a hay crop is grown, the ridge must be slight to harvest the hay. A ridge will make digging easier.

J. E. Converse.

THEM'S OUR VIEWS.

We Heartily Agree With Major Stahlman and Chattanooga News.

When the plot against this government by Germany became known Major E. B. Stahlman was in Washington, D. C., and sent the following telegram to his paper, the Nashville Banner:

"The Banner must stand firmly with the country, despite my honest belief that the President by unneutral conduct has produced the trouble."

The Banner adds:

"Maj. Stahlman believes that the government at Washington should have made its protest against interference with American commerce apply to the restrictions imposed by Great Britain as strongly as it does to the German submarine blockade. He considers that difference in conditions forced Germany to drastic action. But he will stand, and the Banner will stand, for America against any other country under all conditions."

The Chattanooga News has this to say relative to the Stahlman telegram:

"Maj. Stahlman wires his Nashville Banner to 'stand firmly with the country,' even though he thinks our 'unneutral conduct' has produced the trouble. Shake, Major. We're standing by firmly also, with some similar misgivings."

It must be clear to Chronicle readers that the attitude and feelings of the editor of this paper are in full accord with the sentiments expressed in the Stahlman telegram. It will be seen by the clippings in this issue, taken from the Review of Reviews, that there is much ground for any person to feel as does Major Stahlman.

"BONE DRY" SIGNED.

Saturday President Wilson signed the bill carrying the "bone dry" provisions.

That means that no intoxicants can be shipped into any prohibition state for personal use or otherwise. It cannot be owned by any individual for personal use. The same bill prohibits the delivery through the mails into any "dry" state of any publication bearing liquor advertisements. The provisions of the bill become effective at once. The bill effects about one-third of the United States at this time and as other states go "dry" they will come under the provisions of this law.

GERMAN INTRIGUE.

Germany Planned to Unite Japan and Mexico Against This Country.

The daily press has published a letter dated Berlin, January 19, in which Germany states that the submarine warfare would begin February 1 and that an effort would be made to enlist Mexico and Japan against the United States in the event war was declared between the United States and Germany.

The Germans dangled before the eyes of the Mexicans the hope of winning back Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. What they proposed to help Japan to secure is not stated in the letter, but the public mind in this country naturally thinks the Philippine Islands would be the Japanese objective.

Of course the Japanese deny any thought of accepting such a scheme. No one in Mexico professes to know anything of the scheme.

An effort was made to pass a resolution in the United States senate asking President Wilson for the letter and from what source it was obtained. The letter was promptly sent but that part of the resolution asking for the source of the letter was voted down and the President did not volunteer that information. It is claimed in the news dispatches that the letter came through English hands. That naturally leads some to think the letter is a fraud and gotten up to influence this country against Germany. How that is, has not yet been learned and very likely never will be known or if known will not be believed.

LATER—Since writing the above Zimmermann has practically admitted the plot, but justified it on the ground that it is nothing more than any nation is at liberty to do and be within the bounds of international law.

AFTER PISTOL "TOTERS."

Fine and Imprisonment to Carry and a Penitentiary Offense to Draw One Except in Self Defense.

A bill has passed the house of the general assembly making it a fine of \$50 to \$100 and imprisonment from three months to eleven months and twenty-nine days for carrying a pistol. The drawing of a pistol, except in self defense, is punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than three years.

The law is a good one and should pass the senate without the restrictions in anyway being modified. The fact that the fine and imprisonment is not optional with the trial judge, but is mandatory, makes the law especially good.

Not His Fault.

"Please, mister, will you give me a job shoveling the snow off your sidewalk so I can earn enough money to get a bite to eat?"

"You can see for yourself the snow is all shoveled off. Why didn't you come around yesterday?"

"I would have, mister, only there was so much snow I couldn't get here."

Truth Established.

Samuel Joyner, living near Sandfield village in the Berkshires, saw a bear crossing a snow-covered swamp. When he related the incident the villagers doubted him. Next morning he drove to the swamp, cut out blocks of snow bearing bruin's footprints and, driving back to the village, placed the bear's tracks on exhibition.

Skunk All Right at a Distance.

The polecat, or skunk, is a playful, affectionate little creature, with beautiful black and white fur, an inquisitive disposition and a superabundance of animal spirits. Its hide is valued for its fine fur; its fat for a kind of grease well known in rural districts, and its two glands secrete what is known as civet oil. Civet oil, in its cultivated state, is used as a "fixer" for delicate perfumes. In its natural state civet oil is a perfume that would scarcely be called delicate. In fact, it is about the most undelicate perfume imaginable, as anybody can testify who has encountered it unexpectedly at first hand.

DEADLY SHOT GUN GETS IN ITS WORK.

Marion Humphreys Killed by J. T. Conger, Four Miles from Crab Orchard, Saturday—14-Year Old Girl at Bottom of It.

Saturday afternoon about three o'clock J. T. Conger shot and killed Marion Humphreys. Humphreys was shot twice with No. 8 shot, once in the arm and once in the head; he lived an hour after being shot. The remains were interred at Dorton Monday. Conger left his home about dark, as he said, to surrender to an officer, but his whereabouts is unknown.

The killing took place about four miles north of Crab Orchard at the home of Conger, who is a stove inspector at a mill being run by J. S. Cline and sons. There were no eye-witnesses to the killing and the best information obtainable indicates that the following are close to the facts relative to the tragedy.

Humphreys, it is alleged, had been writing letters for the 14-year-old daughter of Conger and carrying the letters to a man who, it is claimed, has a living wife and from whom he had not been divorced, but whom the man had abandoned. Knowledge of the part Humphreys was playing in the matter reached Conger and when Humphreys passed by the Conger home on his way to the community, Conger brought the matter to the attention of Humphreys and charged him to stop. It seems that plans were being perfected for the girl to meet the married man next Sunday at a certain point on the public road and they were to be married.

Conger, it seems, told Humphreys not to come on his premises any more. To this Humphreys is alleged to have replied that he had been in the habit of passing through the Conger yard on his way to the store and would so continue. Humphreys went to the store and was returning with some groceries when shot by Conger in front of the Conger home.

Humphreys lived about an hour after being shot. The body laid where he fell for some four hours before being recovered. A cold rain was falling Saturday and it seems the news of the killing did not reach Crab Orchard until nearly dark. Sheriff Sam Tollett was notified by phone. He called his deputy at Crab Orchard, Henry Scarlett, and Scarlett and George Walker went to the Conger home shortly after dark to place Conger under arrest, but he had gone and has not yet been located.

Humphreys had a bad reputation. A few years ago he killed a man by the name of Anderson, at Mayland, but when the case came to trial he was released because Humphreys swore that he had been notified to leave or a mob would come and get him. Anderson approached the house where Humphreys was staying with some women. Humphreys swore that he thought Anderson was one of the mob that had threatened him and he shot Anderson killing him. It is claimed that Anderson was drunk at the time he was killed and did not intend any harm to Humphreys. It is further claimed that Humphreys killed a negro also some years ago. He was indicted some months ago for dynamiting fish and was tried in the circuit court here. Humphreys was a Holy Roller preacher. He leaves a wife and two children.

Conger's wife is dead and he was keeping house with his son 12 years of age and the daughter, 14, over whom the killing resulted. Conger came to this county from Smith county.

Owing to the reputation that Humphreys bore in the community, not much interest is being taken by the people of Crab Orchard and no special effort is being made to arrest Conger.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Fair greater part of the week. First part cold. Much warmer after Tuesday.